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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
09/681,674	05/18/2001	Yoshifumi Natsuyama	JP92000096US1	3666	
877	7590 11/19/2002				
IBM CORPORATION, T.J. WATSON RESEARCH CENTER			EXAMINER		
P.O. BOX 218 YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NY 10598			RUDE, TIMOTHY L		
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2871		
			DATE MAILED: 11/19/2002	•	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No.   Applicating No.   Applicating No.   Applicant(s)   Applicating No.   Og/681,674   NATSUYAMA, YOSHIFUMI								
Examiner   Timothy L Rude   2871   271	Office Action Summary		Application No.	Applicant(s)				
Timothy L Rude   2871			09/681,674	NATSUYAMA, YO				
The MALLING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply  A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Estatistics of the many be available under the processor of 2 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a right be simely filed  if the period for right specified above is less than thirty (30) days, and the considered streety.  If No period for right specified above is less than thirty (30) days, and the considered streety.  If No period for right specified above is less than thirty (30) days, and the considered streety.  If No period for right specified above is less than thirty (30) days, and the period for right specified and the second address of the communication.  If No period for right specified are such than the second right of the communication of this communication.  If No period the second right is section is second for right with the second right of the communication.  If No period the second right is section is considered for right with the section of the communication.  If No period the section of the second right is section is considered the second right of the communication.  If No period is a coordinate with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4) Claim(s)			Examiner	Art Unit				
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THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Extensions of time may be available under the provision of 37 CPR 1.13(6). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  If the period to resplay excited above, is a first communication of the period of the communication of the period of th			appears on the cover sheet v	vith the correspondence ad	idress			
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 May 2001.  2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.  3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.  4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.  5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.  6) Claim(s) is/are rejected.  7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.  8) Claim(s) 1-15 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.  Application Papers  9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) excepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  11) The proposed drawing correction filed on is: a) approved by the Examiner.  If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.  12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.  Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120  13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) All b) Some * c) None of:  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No.  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119(e) (to a provisional application).  a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.  15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.  Attachment(s)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-852)    Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)	THE N - Exter after - If the - If NO - Failur - Any n earne	MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATIOnsions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFI SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory pere to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by steply received by the Office later than three months after the maximum statutory perestriction.	N. R 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a to a reply within the statutory minimum of the triod will apply and will expire SIX (6) MC tatute, cause the application to become A	a reply be timely filed hirty (30) days will be considered timel DNTHS from the mailing date of this c ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).	ly. xommunication.			
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. Application/Control Number: 09/681,674

Art Unit: 2871

## **DETAILED ACTION**

## Election/Restrictions

- 1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
- A. Claims 4-8 and 9-12, drawn to a liquid crystal display (LCD) device and its method of manufacture, classified in class 349, subclasses 33 and 187.
- B. Claims 1-3 and 13-15, drawn to a display device comprising a display panel and its method of connecting classified in class 345, subclasses 60 and 156.

Inventions A and B are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the LCD can be made without restraining movement between the frame and the display panel, e.g., it may be shock mounted. The subcombination has separate utility such as a panel for an electroluminescent display.

.Application/Control Number: 09/681,674

Art Unit: 2871

Furthermore, Group A contains two Subgroups, I and II:

Claims 9-12, drawn to a method of manufacturing a liquid crystal display
 (LCD) device, classified in class 349, subclass 187.

II. Claims 4-8, drawn to a LCD device, classified in class 349, subclass 33.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case (1), the process can be used to make an LCD without any anchor pins.

Group B contains two Subgroups, III and IV:

- III. Claims 13-15, drawn to a method of connecting a display panel, classified in class 345, subclass 156.
- IV. Claims 1-3, drawn to a display device comprising a display panel,classified in class 345, subclass 60.

.Application/Control Number: 09/681,674

Art Unit: 2871

Inventions III and IV are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case (1), the process can be used to make an LCD without any dedicated restraint member.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed Subgroup (I, II, III, or IV) for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claims are generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims

.Application/Control Number: 09/681,674

Art Unit: 2871

are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

## Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy L Rude whose telephone number is (703) 305-0418. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William L Sikes can be reached on (703) 308-4842. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.

TLD

November 6, 2002

Timothy L Rude Examiner Art Unit 2871

> TOANTON TOANTON PRIMARY EXAMINER